

March 2020



DRC
Danube Rectors' Conference

Dear subscribers to the DRC Newsletter,

First of all, let us express our utmost support to all of you during these extraordinary times and while taking radical measures at the universities to slow the contagion related to the Covid-19 disease.

We are wondering how we could help our member universities during these difficult times. Please read the first point of the newsletter to find out more!

Although university students are currently staying home and are fully dependent on distance learning, they can still connect via digital communication with someone who nominates them for **the Danubius Young Scientist Award 2020**. Check the Award criteria and nominate your colleague!

During quarantine they also can continue to write the paper for our thematic issue of the journal "Der Donauraum" bringing up the problem of **fictional democracy** - a new form of façade democracy that produces **illiberal fictions of democracy**. The contributions will be published within the framework of our [Jean-Monnet-Project](#).

Finally, they can also find the time to prepare the necessary documents for their applications for the **7th Young Scholars Forum on Central and South East Europe** taking place in Vienna on December 2-6, 2020, under the title of "European narratives - in search for common diversity".

Enjoy reading and remember, feedback and comments are always [welcome](#)!

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1. COVID-19 MEASURES AT THE UNIVERSITIES

We are experiencing extraordinary and difficult times. All European countries and their institutions, including universities, are currently tackling with the spread of the Covid-19 disease.

Although the disease has already spread across the continent, the greatest impact of the crisis on the countries in our target region - Central and South-Eastern Europe - is still ahead. Individual governments have already introduced emergency measures to ensure the consequences of the pandemic have been as much as possible minimized. By nature, these measures also deeply affect the functioning of universities and other educational institutions. The introduction of different forms of **distance learning** is an unprecedented and in many ways challenging situation for most universities in the region.

Therefore, we decided to explore how university associations such as DRC could contribute to alleviating the impact of government measures on universities, whereas **our focus primarily refers to various forms of the distance learning (E-learning)**. The collected information on the possibilities of the distance contact could consequently also be used during our DRC Annual conference taking place in November this year.

We would like to ask you to share your ideas and recommendations for our activity during these times of crisis and to share with us your experience, know-how and good practices in order to face the current situation.

Please contact us via our e-mail address info@drc-danube.org

We wish you every success in coping with the emergency measures and take care of yourself!

2. CALL FOR NOMINATIONS | DANUBIUS YOUNG SCIENTIST AWARD



Call for Nominations:
**Danubius Young Scientist
Award 2020**

APPLY NOW!
www.idm.at

Federal Ministry
Republic of Austria
Education, Science
and Research

< IDM >
Institute for the
Danube Region
and Central Europe

Background

The Danubius Award was created in 2011 by the Austrian Federal Ministry for Education, Science and Research (BMBFW) and the Institute for the Danube Region and Central Europe (IDM) with the intention to honor persons with extraordinary achievements in their scientific activity and output in relation to the Danube Region. The Award In 2020, this award will be complemented for the seventh time, with a specific price for young scientists – the „Danubius Young Scientist Award“. This award will be granted to **14 young scientists** - one in each country that is part of the EU Strategy for the Danube Region [**Austria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Germany,**

Hungary, Moldova, Montenegro, Serbia, Slovak Republic, Slovenia, Romania and the Ukraine]. The award seeks to highlight the scientific work and talent of young researchers and enhance the visibility of the scientific community in the region: Moreover, the award encourages young scientists to engage in the scientific examination of the multifaceted issues and questions specifically related to the Danube Region.

The award will be endowed with **1,200 Euros** for each winner of the Danubius Young Scientist Award.

AWARD Criteria

- **Scientific excellence and innovative approach of the academic work**
- **Thematic relevance of the scientific work for issues/problems of the Danube region**
- **Relevance of the scientific work beyond the national borders**
- **Potential of the candidate (for example: integration in international networks, participation in scientific projects, publication history, experience in teaching etc.)**
- **No formal age limit – BUT Limitation to participants that have received their Master/PhD max. 5 years ago (= after 1st of January 2015)**
- **Submissions of candidates holding only a bachelor degree will not be accepted**

The deadline for submitting nominations is Friday, **24th April 2020 at 23:59**.

You can find detailed information including the **document submission** and **selection process** on the [IDM webpage](#).

3. CALL FOR PAPERS | FIFUDEM

CALL FOR PAPERS

**Thematic issue of the regional journal "Der Donauraum":
From Fictional to Functioning Democracy.
Developing Concepts and Strategies for an Inclusive and Participatory Europe**

Submission Deadline: May 31, 2020

Language: English

Liberal democracy appears to be at risk – both in Europe and abroad. New forms of **populist democracies** spread, framed by biased political communication through ideological misinformation, hate speech and tribalism. Authoritarian politicians try to turn Europe into an arena, where metaphorically speaking leaders of tribes are fighting each other by any tools to cement their own positions. In parallel with the **rise of xenophobia, populism and radicalisation**, liberal democratic principles such as checks and balances are gradually eroding. Moreover, the lack of a common public sphere is challenging European integration processes. **Decreasing press freedom** and **increasing mistrust in traditional media** pave the way for populists that rely on oligarchic media networks and use the effects of so-called 'filter bubbles' and 'echo chambers' on social media. Biased (social) media thus creates but a mere **individual fiction**, the façade of a homogeneous world corresponding to the viewers' perceptions.

As part of the [Jean Monnet Project titled "From Fictional to Functioning Democracy \(FIFUDEM\)](#)", carried out by the Institute for the Danube Region and Central Europe (IDM) and Danube Rectors' Conference (DRC), the thematic issue of the journal "Der Donauraum" brings up the **problem of fictional democracy** - a new form of façade democracy that produces illiberal fictions of democracy. With this publication, the editors Dr. Erhard Busek and Dr. Silvia Nadjivan aim to collect practical visions and scientific approaches for actively committed citizenship in a functioning democracy, embedded in a common and inclusive European Union. Below we present a list of potential (not limited) topics for the thematic issue:

- **Use of Education for Democratic Participation**

- **Ways of Political Responsibility for Functioning Democracy**
- **Concepts for Interrelations of Civic Engagement and Liberal Democracy**
- **New Democratic Forms of (Social) Media Communication**

With this Call for Papers we are seeking both **junior and senior scholars and practitioners** from various disciplines who would like to present their research results on this topic in the upcoming issue. In addition to invited authors, including the panelists of the projects' kick-off conference in January 2020, Vienna, the editors particularly encourage authors from Central East and South East Europe to complement the conference proceedings with their perspectives and ideas.

Further information on the **guidelines for authors** can be found [here](#).

Please submit your paper (between **20.000-40.000 characters**, spaces included) till latest **May 31, 2020**. More information on submission conditions can be found [here](#).

For more information on the project, please visit the [IDM website](#).

4. CALL FOR APPLICATIONS | IDM YOUNG SCHOLARS FORUM



7th Young Scholars Forum on Central and South East Europe

“European narratives – in search for common diversity”

02 – 06 December 2020, Vienna, Austria

Europeans face Europeans. The national policies of the states making up the old continent continue to shape Europe's future at the expense of Europe as whole. The divisions among the countries are deepening, very often in a way that creates a crisis both internally and in a global context. The constant search of common narratives – as the basis for a common identity-based policy – seems to be increasingly difficult in the face of fragmented political spectrum and ever-more differing policy approaches in Europe. The purpose of the Forum is to provide space for young scientists to find what is common to all Europeans.

As part of the 3-day event, 20 young researchers from all over Europe are invited to present and discuss their research work related to the topic of the Forum, as well as to network among themselves. The conference will take place on the first two days under the direction of experts within four thematically different panels:

- Europe as an area of peace and stability
- Europe as a space of cultural diversity
- Europe as a global actor

- If not the EU, is there/has there been an alternative?

The third day is designated for further exchange among participants during a thematically appropriate social programme in Vienna and Lower Austria.

Who we are looking for

We are seeking a maximum of **20 young scholars** working on Central and South Eastern Europe in the fields of peace research and security policy, cultural studies, political sciences, economy, geography, sociology, media studies and history to contribute with their research to the analysis of the afore-mentioned issues and to find a common narrative that would held the future Europe together.

Aims of the Forum

- Promoting and encouraging young scholars to engage with Central and South East Europe
- Presentation of research by young scholars to a wider public
- Exchange among young and more advanced researchers on topics, methods, sources and results
- Networking
- Furthering mobility within the region
- Publication of contributions and results

More information on the programme and the submission process can be found on the [IDM website](#).

5. JRC - Call for expressions of interest for the Collaborative Doctoral Partnerships (CDP)

We are pleased to inform you that the Joint Research Centre (JRC) has published the second call for expressions of interest for the **Collaborative Doctoral Partnerships (CDP)** in the following fields:

1. Digital Governance
2. Smart, connected and clean mobility
3. EU Energy Transition
4. Development of methods to monitor progresses, design transformations and identify solutions to achieve SDGs
5. Secure and sustainable supply of raw materials for strategic value chains
6. Artificial intelligence for earth observation
7. Graphic causal models for hybrid threats
8. Resilience of built infrastructure to natural and man-made hazards
9. Health promotion and prevention of non-communicable diseases (NCDs)
10. Non-power nuclear and radiological technologies to achieve the SDGs 2030 Agenda
11. Synergies of qualitative and quantitative methods for anticipation activities
12. Behavioural insights applied to policy-making
13. Robustness in complex data analysis and statistical modelling



The call is opened to higher education institutions/universities from EU Member States and countries associated to the EU Research Programme Horizon 2020.

Please disseminate and share widely among your university contacts and scientific networks.

The deadline for applications is **3 May 2020**.

You can find more information on the [webpage of the JRC](#).

6. Green.Building.Solutions.Summer University Vienna

In 2020, the DRC is again funding two scholarships for students of the DRC member universities to attend the **Green.Building.Solutions.Summer University 2020**.

Application for the programs via [summer-university.net](#) is already possible.



Green. Building. Solutions.

→ **Summer University Vienna**
July 18 - August 9, 2020

First-hand ecological knowledge and engineering expertise bundled in a three-week program in the capital of energy-efficient building, Vienna. Think sustainable, take care of your future - now!

www.summer-university.net



- **Benefits**
Earn 7 ECTS university credits while learning about the cutting edge in sustainable buildings within an interdisciplinary and cultural exchange. Theory is combined with practical exercises and a hands-on approach.
- **Learn from the best**
International experts from universities, research institutions, and companies share latest developments from research and practice.
- **Best practice at hand**
Buildings in Vienna showing the application of sustainable theories are presented as part of the course.
- **Try it yourself**
Enjoy Vienna while living in a passive house.
- **Organizers**
The **OeAD student housing**, winner of the 2013 Austrian Climate Protection Award, offers passive houses for active students and accommodates 2,500 international guests annually in innovative and energy-efficient student dormitories.
The **BOKU University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences, Vienna** teaches sustainable use of natural resources by connecting natural, engineering and economic sciences.
The **TU Vienna** focuses on the relationship of energy to the environment in architecture, urban planning, as well as natural and engineering sciences.



7. Alternative Economic and Monetary Systems. Summer University Vienna

In 2020, the DRC is once again funding two scholarships for students of the DRC member universities to attend the **Alternative Economic and Monetary Systems. Summer University Vienna 2020**.

Application for the programs via summer-university.net is already possible.



ALTERNATIVE ECONOMIC AND MONETARY SYSTEMS

THE ECONOMY OF THE FUTURE

→ STOP CLIMATE CHANGE NOW!

Summer University Vienna

July 20 - August 7, 2020



There is no planet B!

We have to act now in order to limit global warming to 1.5°C. AEMS focuses on ways to restructure economic systems to embody sustainable use of resources and a more collaborative society overall.

At AEMS you learn about:

- Ecological sustainability, population growth and the long-term management of natural resources and energy.
- The variety of alternative economic and monetary systems that are already in practice worldwide.
- Business ethics, consumerism, solidarity and the common good: The need for a new philosophy.

ORGANIZERS

BOKU University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences contributes to a sustainable use of natural resources by connecting natural sciences, engineering and economic sciences.

Economy for the Common Good offers an answer to current ecological, social and economic problems. As of 2019, more than 2,000 companies have committed themselves to the initiative.

Each year, OeAD student housing accommodates over 2,500 students in energy-efficient dormitories. It also won the 2013 Austrian Climate Protection Award.

APPLY NOW!

www.summer-university.net





The call for the empowerment of young leaders through the active involvement at **Bled Strategic Forum 2020** is open!

For the past decade, the Young Bled Strategic Forum (Young BSF) has been bringing together young leaders from all over the world to engage in lively discussion and develop innovative solutions to some of the most pressing global issues. It has become a unique meeting place for a diverse array of young leaders, entrepreneurs, influencers, thinkers and social activists, offering them a platform to share their visions, exchange ideas and connect.

The 2020 Young BSF will focus on **reinventing the role of youth** in society, which is indispensable in creating a resilient and sustainable global environment capable of responding to the challenges of the 21st century through the reinvention of our societies. In today's rapidly changing world, it is crucial to take the youth on board when addressing the challenges of the future.

A special focus of the Young BSF shall be devoted to cross-regional cooperation and macro-regional strategies. A new generation of leaders will demonstrate that such collaboration is not only necessary but also inevitable for positive next steps in democratisation, the advancement of human rights, sustainable development, women's empowerment, counter-terrorism and the fight against climate change. To achieve all this, young leaders need to learn from their peers from different regions, sharing their knowledge, ideas and know-how.

Interested participants from EUSDR and EUSAIR are eligible for financial support.

Please apply at <https://bit.ly/38FUnPw> by **5 April 2020** at the latest.

You can find additional information on the Forum [here](#).

Should you have any additional questions, please do not hesitate to contact the organizers at young@bledstrategicforum.org.

9. ELTE Business Economics Summer University

ELTE BESU, a part of the **ELTE Budapest Summer University**, offers six one-week courses on **13-18 July, 2020** for undergraduate and graduate students of business and economics. The courses involve 25 hours of instruction, and students completing them successfully will get a transcript they may use to obtain ECTS credit from their home institutions.

Courses offered:

- Managerial Accounting: Information in Business Decision-making
- Business Communication Skills

- International Business Networks
- Corporate Financial Analysis – An Integrated Approach
- Strategic Brand Management
- Informal Logic for Business

Application deadline: 30 June 2020, early bird fee is available until 30 April

Course fee: 350 EUR; early bird fee: 280 EUR

E-mail: sumuni@gti.elte.hu

ELTE Business Economics Summer University

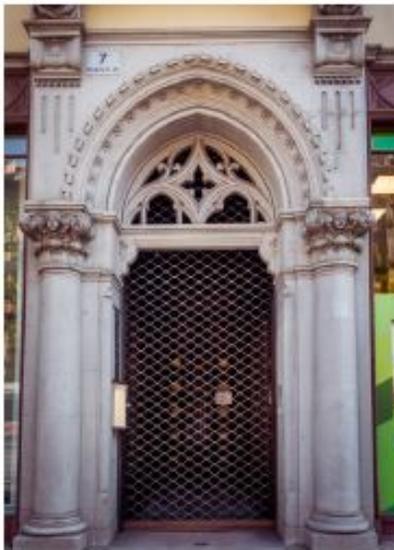
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The courses involve 25 hours of instruction, and students completing them successfully will get a transcript they may use to obtain ECTS credit from their home institutions.



ELTE BUSINESS ECONOMICS
SUMMER UNIVERSITY | BUDAPEST

Date:
13-18 July, 2020



Courses:

- » Managerial Accounting: Information in Business Decision-making
- » Business Communication Skills
- » International Business Networks
- » Corporate Financial Analysis – An Integrated Approach
- » Strategic Brand Management
- » Informal Logic for Business

Application deadline: 30 June 2020, early bird fee is available until 30 April

Course fee: 350 EUR; early bird fee: 280 EUR

Contact:

E-mail: sumuni@gti.elte.hu

Website: <https://gti.elte.hu/sumuni>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/eltebesu/>

Instagram: www.instagram.com/elte.besu/

10. LE:NOTRE Landscape Forum 2020



The LE:NOTRE Institute along with the Slovak University of Agriculture in Nitra, the Slovak University of Technology in Bratislava and the Vienna University of Technology organise the **9th LE:NOTRE Landscape Forum** with the main theme **Cross-Border Landscapes** in Bratislava from **April 21 to 25 2020**.

Forum participants can benefit from:

guided city walks, workshops, interesting keynote lectures, a whole-day landscape experience, discussions with local experts and stakeholders and thematic working groups on cross-border landscape vision, sustainable urban growth and green infrastructure, rural fringe, foodscapes and nature development, heritage and identities, landscape democracy, and landscape economy.

Forum participants can also submit a **posters** or **thematic essays** which will be published in the forum's e-book.

For more information, please, visit the [website](#).

UPDATE:

LE:NOTRE Landscape Forum 2020 Goes Online

Unusual times need unusual solutions. The LE:NOTRE Team and organisers of the forum have been carefully observing the development of the COVID-19 situation across Europe, including travel restrictions and regulations on organisation of larger events both in Slovakia and Austria.

These restrictions, along with growing concerns of potential participants, have led the LE:NOTRE Institute Board to the decision to transform our forum into a 1-day online event on April 22 (Wednesday) in the Adobe Connect room of LE:NOTRE Institute. This online event will include the planned keynote lectures and the international student competition award ceremony.

11. CALL FOR APPLICATIONS | "Sharing Future" Residence scholarship 2020

The Danube Rectors' Conference (DRC) is pleased to announce that the **Call for applications for the "Sharing Future" Residence scholarship 2020** of the International Elias Canetti Society is now open!

Also in 2020, the DRC is funding one residence scholarship that enables the scholarship holder to pursue his/ her artistic work within one month in the summer of 2020 at the **Canetti House in Ruse, Bulgaria**.

The Canetti Artist Scholarship is aimed at artists from all over Europe. The fact that it is also advertised to artists from neighboring countries - from the Western Balkans and Turkey, should in particular provide opportunities for international, artistic exchange. Various different forms of arts should be fostered by the scholarship: painters, photographers, writers, performance artists, translators and musicians can apply for it. The slogan of the scholarship "Sharing Future" aims at a collaborative creation and cooperation for a joint Europe and a common future.

The scholarship is advertised for one month a year.

The scholarship holder can

- pursue his/ her artistic work undisturbed in the spring / summer of 2020 in Ruse
- use the historic Canetti house as work place with various possibilities for artistic expression using the space (photos attached)
- get to know the local cultural scene in Ruse and Bulgaria and use the resulting synergies and artistic realization
- live in an apartment provided by the IECS
- receive 1200 € for contribution and 300 for € travel expenses or 1500 € for both combined

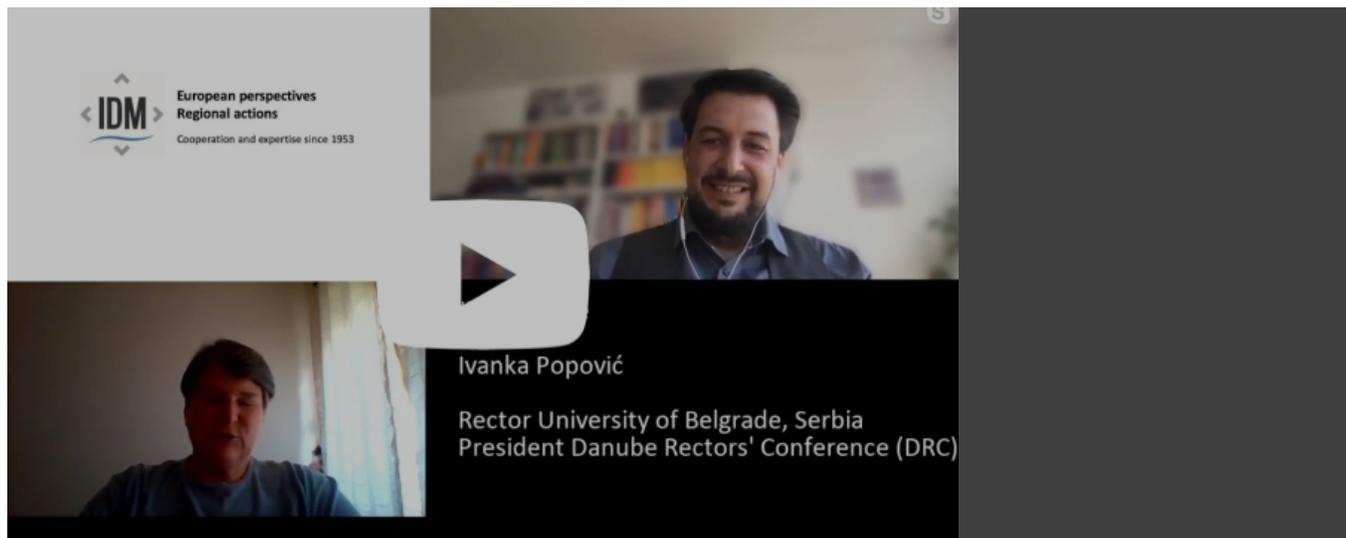
Application documents to be submitted:

- artist curriculum vitae
- significant illustrations of the artistic works in personal catalogs or a portfolio
- brief outline of the planned project

The application with all documents should be sent to eliascanetti@eliascanetti.org not later than 30th of March 2020.

You can find more information on the call [here](#).

13. IDMonSite with Ivanka Popović



IDMonSite is livestream format of the Institute for the Danube Region and Central Europe (IDM) to inform about how the countries in Central and South East Europe are dealing with COVID-19. On Friday, March 27, DRC President Ivanka Popović talked about the situation in Serbia, how the curfew affects the daily life and also about the challenges and opportunities for universities resulting from the necessity to switch completely to distance education and using ICT in a short period of time. You can re-watch the live stream on the IDM YouTube channel.

13. DRC Facebook Page





We are recently trying to improve the circulation of information within our network. As you are a member of the DRC, we kindly ask you to also connect with us via Facebook and please follow or DRC page in this [link](#).

Thank you very much and best regards from Vienna.



14. EUA Affiliate Status and EUA Newsletter

We are continuously strengthening and expanding our network. Since November 2015, the DRC is affiliate member of the [European University Association](#).

If you are interested in their news and activities, please follow the [link](#).



Email



Website



Facebook

Danube Rectors' Conference i.v.z.w.

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